

What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating a machine that processes printing substrates in sheet form, the machine including a delivery device and a drive for conveying the substrate sheets, the delivery device having at least one opening, the substrate sheets being conveyed from an inside of the delivery device to an externally accessible region, the machine including a control device controlling at least one closing device for opening or closing the opening, the control device being operatively connected to the drive of the delivery device, the method comprising:

closing the opening or maintaining the opening in a closed position when no substrate sheet is conveyed through the opening.
2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the opening is closed or opened manually or using an operating control element; and the opening is capable of being opened only when the drive is at rest; the drive being capable of operation only when the opening is closed.
3. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising opening the opening using the control device as soon as a substrate sheet is conveyed through the opening, or maintaining the opening in an open position when a printing substrate protrudes through the opening.
4. The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the closing device is controlled as a function of the format; and during the transport of substrate sheets, the opening is in the open position or is opened by the control device only to the extent required by a width or length of the substrate sheet.
5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein after the drive of the machine has come to a stop, the opening is in an open position or is opened by the control device.
6. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the opening is in the closed position or is closed by the control device before the drive is put into operation and when no substrate sheets protrude through the opening to the outside.

7. The method as recited in claim 4 wherein, in the case of format-dependent adjustment of the closing device, the control device opens the opening wider when the drive is at rest and printing substrates protrude through the opening from the inside to the outside of the delivery device.
8. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the machine is a printing press.
9. A device for a machine that processes printing substrates in sheet form comprising:
  - a delivery device including a drive for conveying substrate sheets and having at least one opening, the substrate sheets capable of being conveyed from an inside of the delivery device to an externally accessible region, the delivery device including at least one closing device for opening or closing the opening;
  - a control device for controlling the closing device and being operatively connected to the drive, the control device closing the opening or maintaining the opening in a closed position when no substrate sheet is conveyed through the opening.
10. The device as recited in claim 9 further comprising sensors or contacts at the closing device to detect a state of the closing device.
11. The device as recited in claim 9 further comprising sensors or contacts for detecting substrate sheets present in a region of the closing device.
12. The device as recited in claim 9 wherein the closing device includes at least one movable closing element controllable by the control device.
13. The device as recited in claim 9 wherein the closing device includes three movable closing elements controllable by the control device.
14. The device as recited in claim 9 wherein the movable closing element is a shutter-like roller.

15. The device as recited in claim 9 wherein the machine is a printing press.
16. A printing press or folding machine comprising:
  - a delivery device including a drive for conveying substrate sheets and having at least one opening, the substrate sheets capable of being conveyed from an inside of the delivery device to an externally accessible region, the delivery device including at least one closing device for opening or closing the opening;
  - a control device for controlling the closing device and being operatively connected to the drive, the control device closing the opening or maintaining the opening in a closed position when no substrate sheet is conveyed through the opening.